

AGENDA
COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS*
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA (714) 378-3200
May 4, 2023 12:00 p.m.- Conference Room C-2

*The OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting is noticed as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of strict compliance with the Brown Act and it provides an opportunity for all Directors to hear presentations and participate in discussions. Directors receive no additional compensation or stipend as a result of simultaneously convening this meeting. Items recommended for approval at this meeting will be placed on the **May 17, 2023** Board meeting Agenda for approval.

This meeting will be held in person. As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:
<https://ocwd.zoom.us/j/99465334409>

Telephone Audio: (213) 338 8477

Webinar ID: 994 6533 4409

Teleconference Sites: 20 Civic Center Plaza, Room 813, Santa Ana 19 Cannery, Buena Park 10382 Bonnie Drive, Garden Grove * Members of the public may attend and participate at all locations.

ROLL CALL

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution determining need to take immediate action on item(s) and that the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the posting of the Agenda (requires two-thirds vote of the Board members present, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present.)

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

Time has been reserved at this point in the agenda for persons wishing to comment for up to three minutes to the Board of Directors on any item that is not listed on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District. By law, the Board of Directors is prohibited from taking action on such public comments. As appropriate, matters raised in these public comments will be referred to District staff or placed on the agenda of an upcoming Board meeting.

At this time, members of the public may also offer public comment for up to three minutes on any item on the Consent Calendar. While members of the public may not remove an item from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion, a Director may do so at the request of a member of the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM NO. 1)

All matters on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion, without separate discussion on these items, unless a Board member or District staff request that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

- 1. MINUTES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for May 17 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
AB 1594 (Eduardo Garcia - Imperial)	Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities	Support
AB 1072 (Buffy Wicks - Oakland)	Water conservation and efficiency: low-income residential customers	Watch

- 3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for May 17 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 4. GWRS FINAL COMPLETION DEDICATION CEREMONY UPDATE
- 5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT (APRIL)

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 17 BOARD MEETING

DIRECTOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER’S ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Denis Bilodeau - Chair
Van Tran - Vice Chair
Roger Yoh
Bruce Whitaker
Steve Sheldon

Valerie Amezcua
Natalie Meeks
Dina Nguyen
Kelly Rowe
Cathy Green

Agenda Posting: In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda is posted in the window of the guard shack at the main entrance of the Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA and on the OCWD website: www.ocwd.com not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All written materials relating to each agenda item are available for public inspection in the office of the Assistant District Secretary. Backup material for the Agenda is available at the District offices for public review and can be viewed online at the District's website: www.ocwd.com.

Accommodations to the Disabled: Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the District Secretary at (714) 378-3233, by email at jdurant@ocwd.com by fax at (714) 378-3373. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable District staff to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

Availability of Agenda Material: As a general rule, agenda reports or other written documentation that has been prepared or organized with respect to each item of business listed on the agenda can be reviewed at www.ocwd.com. Copies of these materials and other disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors in connection with an Open Session agenda item are also on file with and available for inspection at the Office of the District Secretary, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If such writings are distributed to members of the Board of Directors on the day of a Board meeting, the writings will be available at the entrance to the Board of Directors meeting room at the Orange County Water District office.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
 ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
 April 6, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Director Tran called the Water Issues Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the District Boardroom. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Denis Bilodeau (absent)
 Van Tran
 Roger Yoh
 Bruce Whitaker
 Steve Sheldon (absent)

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy- Executive Director
 Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
 Alicia Dunkin – Legislative Affairs Liaison
 Christina Fuller – District Secretary

Alternates

Valerie Amezcua
 Natalie Meeks (absent)
 Dina Nguyen (absent)
 Kelly Rowe
 Cathy Green

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Rowe and carried [5-0], the Committee agreed to add State Bond Bills and California Water Infrastructure Act to today’s agenda.
Ayes –Tran, Whitaker, Amezcua, Rowe, Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Rowe and carried [5-0] as follows:
Ayes –Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Amezcua, Rowe

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the February 2, 2023 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

OCWD Consultants provided a summary of state bills and recommended actions for each bill.

Upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Tran and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 19 Board meeting: Take the following positions:

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
Water Rights Bills		
AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda)	State Water Resources Control Board: interim relief.	Oppose
AB 1137 (Wicks, D-Oakland)	State Water Resources Control Board: water shortage enforcement	Oppose

SB 389 (Allen, D-Redondo Beach)	State Water Resources Control Board: determination of water right	Oppose
Other Topics		
AB 557 (Hart, D-Santa Barbara)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support
SB 745 (Cortese, D-Campbell)	The Drought-Resistant Buildings Act	Consistent with WateReuse, take an “Oppose unless amended” position to exempt areas from the greywater capture building standard requirement that already have a centralized water recycling system; and support any additional amendments that WateReuse is developing
SB 366 (Caballero, D-Fresno)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets	Watch
State Bond Bills		Informational

Ayes –Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Amezcua, Rowe

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on the California Water Infrastructure, appropriations and earmark requests on PFAS cleanup, PFAS drinking water and maximum contaminant levels and the second congressional briefing on PFAS. This item was informational only.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. GWRS Final Completion Dedication Ceremony Update

Public Affairs Director Gina Ayala stated that the GWRS Final Completion Dedication Ceremony will be held Friday, April 14, 2023. She advised that the event will take place from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and will include a dedication ceremony, GWRS tours and a lunch reception. She reported that 310 people have RSVP'd including elected officials, water industry professionals and other stakeholders. Ms. Ayala advised that a total of \$45,000 was received in sponsorships.

5. Children’s Water Education Festival Update

Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles stated that the 26th annual Children's Water Education Festival was held on March 29-30 at UC Irvine and noted that 4,029 students participated in the event. She provided an overview of the event and noted that \$66,217 was raised in sponsorships.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report (February -March)

Ms. Ayala provided an update on February and March highlights reporting on recent awards received by OCWD and media coverage of the GWRS 15th Anniversary.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: Mike Markus

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Dunkin

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line-Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

Orange County Water District (OCWD) consultants will provide a verbal update on bills of interest to OCWD and PFAS funding.

ATTACHMENTS

- Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith May 2023 State Legislative Update
- OCWD State Bill Matrix 2023
- AB 1594 (Eduardo Garcia - Imperial) Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities
- AB 1072 (Buffy Wicks - Oakland) Water conservation and efficiency: low-income residential customers

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for the May 17 Board meeting: Take the following positions.

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
AB 1594 (Eduardo Garcia - Imperial)	Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities	Support
AB 1072 (Buffy Wicks - Oakland)	Water conservation and efficiency: low-income residential customers	Watch

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

AB 1594 (Eduardo Garcia - Imperial) Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities

AB 1594 would require any state regulation that seeks to require the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles by a public agency utility to ensure that those vehicles can support a public agency utility's ability to maintain reliable water and electric services, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide and nationwide, among other requirements. The bill would define a

public agency utility to include a local publicly owned electric utility, a community water system, and a wastewater treatment provider.

AB 1594 further enhances the contention of many agencies that the new Advanced Clean Fleet proposed regulations needs to formally recognize the necessary nature of water and wastewater agencies along with electrical utilities. OCWD staff and consultants recommend a “support” position on AB 1594. ACWA has a support position on AB 1594 and CMUA is the sponsor of AB 1594.

AB 1072 (Buffy Wicks -Oakland) Water conservation and efficiency: low-income residential customers

AB 1072 requires an urban wholesale water supplier and urban water suppliers to offer technical assistance and financial incentives (40% must go to low-income residential customers and disadvantaged communities) to install efficient water conservation devices and climate resilient landscapes by 2025.

OCWD has less than 25 residential customers. Creating a new program for water conservation would not be a significant benefit, especially compared to the water conservation already achieved by the Groundwater Replenishment System.

OCWD staff and consultants recommend not taking an individual position on the bill, but instead working with ACWA on their amendments that are being developed as there are many issues with the bill including Prop-218 concerns. ACWA has an “oppose unless amended” position and has developed a workgroup to draft specific amendments.

Background/Additional provisions AB 1072 include:

- Provides that conservation technical and financial assistance may be funded by ratepayer and non-ratepayer revenue or by recouping the program cost by a surcharge on a program participant’s bill provided the surcharge is no greater than the bill savings generated by the conservation program.
- Specifies the type of technical and financial assistance that may be offered pursuant to this bill including discounts and low- or no-cost installation of devices and landscapes.
- Provides that after January 1, 2025, an urban water supplier or urban wholesale water supplier shall be ineligible to access state financial assistance, except for emergency assistance, unless it is in compliance with this bill.
- Requires the State Water Board and DWR to use existing funding programs to fund the technical and financial assistance programs offered by community water systems and suppliers in compliance with this bill to the maximum extent allowable by law. Such funds include general obligation bond funds, revolving loan funds, integrated regional water management funds, General Fund allocations for water efficiency and conservation, specified federal funds, and fees assessed by groundwater sustainability agencies.
- Requires the State Water Board to adopt reporting requirements for this bill by July 1, 2026, and enumerates necessary aspects of these requirements.

ACTIVITIES

July 18 Assemblymember Chen will meet with President Green, Mike Markus, and Gina Ayala

- May 19 Assemblymember Davies will meet with President Green, Mike Markus, and Alicia Dunkin
- April 21 Assemblymember Dixon met with President Green, Mike Markus, and Alicia Dunkin
- April 17 Orange County Supervisor Sarmiento met with President Green, Mike Markus, and Alicia Dunkin
- April 7 Senator Nguyen met with President Green, Mike Markus, and Alicia Dunkin
- March 29 Senator Kelly Seyarto and his staff met via zoom with President Green, Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin
- March 17 Assemblymember Quirk-Silva and her staff met with President Green and Mike Markus
- March 10 Senator Umberg and his staff met with President Green, Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin
- March 9 Assemblymember Valencia's staff, Natalie Rubalcava, met with Alicia Dunkin
- March 8 Assemblymember Ta and his staff met with President Green, Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin
- March 7 Alicia Dunkin participated in the California Groundwater Coalition Lobby Day in Sacramento

Funding & Applications

- Alicia Dunkin gained support letters from Orange County Assemblymembers, Senators and Supervisors for federal earmark funding requests to cleanup PFAS.
- During the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC) Lobby Day in Sacramento, Alicia Dunkin met with the chairs and members of state budget committees and key members of the legislature regarding PFAS funding, protection of groundwater from sea water intrusion and other topics that concern CGC's membership.
- Alicia Dunkin is participating on the ACWA, CMUA, WateReuse, and CGC infrastructure working groups and recommended prioritized funding for PFAS monitoring and remediation and funding for protection of groundwater basins from seawater intrusion.
- OCWD submitted seven applications for PFAS federal grant funding through the State Water Resources Control Board for a total amount of \$27.85 million.
- OCWD received a \$4.2 million grant from Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program administered by DWR through SAWPA. \$4.2 million recommended by SAWPA subject to DWR approval (grant not received yet).
- OCWD is applying for funding through the DWR SGMA grant program. (amount to be determined)



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



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TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

FROM: JOE A. GONSALVES AND SON
EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: April 25, 2023

The April 28 deadline for policy bills with a fiscal impact is rapidly approaching. April is one of the busiest months of the year in Sacramento. Most of the thousands of bills introduced in January and February are set for their first hearing. As the vast majority of those bills will have some cost to implement, they are subject to the April 28 deadline.

OCWD recently voted to oppose three bills significantly changing California water rights law. While very few bills die in their first policy committees, our firms have been working with a large coalition of water agencies, agricultural stakeholders, and businesses to oppose these bills.

AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan)

AB 460 is authored by the Chair of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee. AB 460 would vest the State Water Resources Control Board with sweeping new authority to issue interim relief orders based on the Board's own interpretation of complex statutes, legal doctrines, and the California Constitution.

The bill had its first hearing in the author's own Committee on April 18. While the bill passed, we believe the opposition coalition we are part of made headway in Committee. In general, the proponents of the bill struggled to rebut the assertions made by opponents. Instead, they simply stated that they did not understand them. Several members of the Committee expressed serious concerns with the bill. Most significantly, two of the author's Democratic colleagues chose not to vote for the bill, offering to convene negotiations between the author and opponents instead.

AB 460 will have its second hearing today in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. We have once again worked hard to lobby the Committee though we believe it is likely that the bill will pass. However, we believe that there is a real chance of stopping AB 460 and other water rights bills on the floor. Continuing to lobby the bill in these early committees so that legitimate concerns are raised is an important part of building towards a floor fight.

AB 1337 (Wicks)

AB 1337 was also heard in the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 18. Before its hearing, AB 1337 granted the State Board open-ended regulatory authority to curtail water diversions. The bill was amended in Committee and completely rewritten. While the amendments rewrote the bill, its effect has not changed significantly. As amended, AB 1337 would grant the Board explicit authority to curtail water diversions for all water rights holders at any time regardless of whether the state is in a drought emergency.

Similar to AB 460, all of the Republicans on the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee voted against AB 1337 and two of the Committee's Democrats voted no. The bill passed and is on its way to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 389 (Allen)

SB 389 effectively makes the State Water Resources Control Board the police, prosecutor, jury, and judge when it comes to water rights. The bill grants the Board authority to initiate an investigation of a lawful diversion of water without any cause. It also grants the Board the authority to issue a decision declaring that the diversion of water is unauthorized based on that investigation even when there is not a competing claim for the water. Finally, under SB 389 a water rights holder would bear the full burden of proving its use is legal to the Board.

SB 389 will have its first hearing in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee today.

MEASURE	AUTHOR	TOPIC	LOCATION	SUMMARY	POSITION
AB 30	Ward	Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program.	3/14/2023-Assembly Appropriations Committee	Current law establishes the Atmospheric Rivers: Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program in the Department of Water Resources. Current law requires the department, upon an appropriation for purposes of the program, to research climate forecasting and the causes and impacts that climate change has on atmospheric rivers, to operate reservoirs in a manner that improves flood protection, and to reoperate flood control and water storage facilities to capture water generated by atmospheric rivers. This bill would rename that program the Atmospheric Rivers Research and Forecast Improvement Program: Enabling Climate Adaptation Through Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations and Hazard Resiliency (AR/FIRO) Program. The bill would require the department to research, develop, and implement new observations, prediction models, novel forecasting methods, and tailored decision support systems to improve predictions of atmospheric rivers and their impacts on water supply, flooding, post-wildfire debris flows, and environmental conditions.	Support
AB 460	Bauer-Kahan	State Water Resources Control Board: interim relief.	4/19/2023-Assembly Judiciary Committee	The State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards are required to set forth water quality objectives in state and regional water quality control plans. Current law establishes the Water Rights Fund, which consists of various fees and penalties. The moneys in the Water Rights Fund are available upon appropriation by the Legislature for the administration of the board's water rights program. Current law requires that the owner of any dam allow sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam, as specified. This bill would authorize the board to issue, on its own motion or upon the petition of an interested party, an interim relief order in appropriate circumstances to implement or enforce these and related provisions of law. The bill would provide that a person or entity that violates any interim relief order issued by the board would be liable to the board for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed the sum of \$10,000 for each day in which a violation occurs and \$5,000 for each acre-foot of water diverted in violation of the interim relief order. The bill would require these funds to be deposited in the Water Rights Fund	Oppose
AB 557	Hart	Open Meetings: Local Agencies:	2/17/2023-Assembly Local Government	Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances	Support

		Teleconferences.	Committee	when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, as specified. If there is a continuing state of emergency, or if state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, existing law requires a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures. Current law requires a legislative body that holds a teleconferenced meeting under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures to give notice of the meeting and post agendas, as described, to allow members of the public to access the meeting and address the legislative body, to give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment, including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. Current law prohibits a legislative body that holds a teleconferenced meeting under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. This bill would extend the above-described abbreviated teleconferencing provisions when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, as specified, indefinitely.	
AB 817	Pacheco	Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.	3/16/2023-Assembly Local Government Committee	Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.	Watch
AB 1337	Wicks	State Water	4/24/2023-Assembly	Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt regulations for various water conservation purposes,	Oppose

		Resources Control Board: water shortage enforcement.	Appropriations Committee	including, but not limited to, to prevent the waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water, and to implement these regulations through orders curtailing the diversion or use of water under any claim of right. The bill would require the board to provide notice and an opportunity to be heard before issuing an order, except where an opportunity to be heard before the issuance of an order would be impractical given the likelihood of harm to the purposes of the various water conservation regulations. The bill would provide that a person or entity may be civilly liable for a violation of any regulation or order issued by the board pursuant to these provisions in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each day in which the violation has occurred and \$2,500 for each acre-foot of water diverted or used in violation of the applicable requirement. The bill would authorize the imposition of this civil liability by the superior court, as specified, or administratively by the board. The bill would provide that a regulation or order issued by the board pursuant to these provisions, or by emergency regulation, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).	
AB 1567	Garcia	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023.	4/19/2023-Assembly Natural Resources Committee	The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, approved by the voters as Proposition 68 at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary election, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,100,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. Article XVI of the California Constitution requires measures authorizing general obligation bonds to specify the single object or work to be funded by the bonds and further requires a bond act to be approved by a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature and a majority of the voters. This bill would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15,105,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. This bill contains other related provisions.	Support if amended to include funding for 1. PFAS Cleanup. 2. Projects to protect groundwater from sea water intrusion.
SB 23	Caballero	Water supply and flood risk reduction	4/11/2023-Senate Environmental	Current law prohibits an entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river,	Support

		projects: expedited permitting.	Quality Committee	stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, except under specified conditions, including requiring the entity to send written notification to the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the activity in the manner prescribed by the department. This bill would require a project proponent, if already required to submit a notification to the department, to complete and submit environmental documentation to the department for the activity in the notification.	
SB 366	Caballero	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.	3/29/2023-Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee	Current law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and coordinated control, protection, conservation, development, and use of the water resources of the state, which is known as the California Water Plan. Current law requires the department to include a discussion of various strategies in the plan update, including, but not limited to, strategies relating to the development of new water storage facilities, water conservation, water recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, water transfers, and alternative pricing policies that may be pursued in order to meet the future needs of the state. Current law requires the department to establish an advisory committee to assist the department in updating the plan. This bill would require the department to instead establish a stakeholder advisory committee, to expand the membership of the committee to include tribes and environmental justice interests, to prohibit a member of the committee from serving longer than the development of 2 updates, and to require the committee to meet a minimum of 4 times annually. The bill would require the department, in coordination with the California Water Commission, the State Water Resources Control Board, other state and federal agencies as appropriate, and the stakeholder advisory committee to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the state's water needs and meeting specified water supply targets established by the bill for purposes of "The California Water Plan."	Support
SB 389	Allen	State Water Resources Control Board: determination of water right.	2/22/2023-Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee	Current law provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the state take vigorous action to enforce the terms and conditions of permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations to appropriate water, to enforce state board orders and decisions, and to prevent the unlawful diversion of water. This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to investigate the diversion and use of water from a stream system to determine whether the diversion and use are based	Oppose

				upon appropriation, riparian right, or other basis of right, as specified.	
SB 411	Portantino	Open meetings: teleconferences: bodies with appointed membership.	4/19/2023-Senate Judiciary Committee	Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. This bill would authorize a legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. The bill would alternatively define "legislative body" for this purpose to mean a board, commission, or advisory body of a local agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed and which board, commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.	Watch

SB 638	Eggman	Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024.	4/19/2023-Senate Appropriations Committee	Would enact the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, for flood protection and climate resiliency projects.	Support if amended to include funding for 1. PFAS Cleanup. 2. Projects to protect groundwater from sea water intrusion.
SB 745	Cortese	The Drought-Resistant Buildings Act.	4/19/2023-Senate Appropriations Committee	Would require the California Building Standards Commission to develop and propose mandatory building standards to reduce the designed potable water demand of new buildings by 25% from current mandatory design requirements and to minimize the use of potable water for nonpotable uses. The bill would require the commission to adopt mandatory building standards that require new buildings to be designed to capture graywater and use alternative water sources for nonpotable building and landscaping water uses, as specified.	Oppose unless amended to exempt areas from the dual plumbing requirement that already recycle indoor water use.

SB 867	Allen	Drought and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Park Creation and Outdoor Access Bond Act of 2023.	3/28/2023-Senate Governance & Finance Committee	Would enact the Drought and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Park Creation and Outdoor Access Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for drought and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate smart agriculture, and park creation and outdoor access programs.	Support if amended to include funding for 1. PFAS Cleanup. 2. Projects to protect groundwater from sea water intrusion.

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 13, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1594

Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo)
(Coauthors: Senators Bradford and Dahle)

February 17, 2023

~~An act to amend Section 165 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.~~
An act to add the heading of Division 12.5 (commencing with Section 28500 to, and to add Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 28500) to Division 12.5 of, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1594, as amended, Garcia. ~~Authorized emergency vehicles.~~
Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities.

Executive Order No. N-79-20 establishes the goal of transitioning medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in California to zero-emission vehicles by 2045 for all operations where feasible and by 2035 for drayage trucks, and requires the State Air Resources Board to develop and propose medium- and heavy-duty vehicle regulations to meet that goal.

Existing law establishes the Air Quality Improvement Program that is administered by the board for purposes of funding projects related to, among other things, the reduction of criteria air pollutants and improvement of air quality, and establishes the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program within the Air Quality Improvement Program to make financing tools and nonfinancial supports available to operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to enable those operators to transition their fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

This bill would require any state regulation that seeks to require, or otherwise compel, the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles by a public agency utility to ensure that those vehicles can support a public agency utility’s ability to maintain reliable water and electric services, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide and nationwide, among other requirements. The bill would define a public agency utility to include a local publicly owned electric utility, a community water system, and a wastewater treatment provider, as specified.

~~Existing law generally regulates authorized emergency vehicles, and exempts the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from various provisions of the rules of the road, as contained in the Vehicle Code, if, among other things, the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call, the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren, and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians. Existing law defines “authorized emergency vehicle” to include, among others, any vehicle owned by the state, or any bridge and highway district, and equipped and used either for fighting fires, or towing or servicing other vehicles, caring for injured persons, or repairing damaged lighting or electrical equipment.~~

~~This bill would instead define authorized emergency vehicle to include any vehicle owned by the state, or any bridge and highway district, and equipped and used for, among other things, repairing damaged lighting or electrical infrastructure.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. The heading of Division 12.5 (commencing with*
2 *Section 28500) is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:*

3

4 *DIVISION 12.5. ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES*

5

6 *SEC. 2. Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 28500) is added*
7 *to Division 12.5 of the Vehicle Code, to read:*

CHAPTER 1. PUBLIC AGENCY UTILITY MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

28500. (a) "Public agency utility" means a local publicly owned electric utility, as defined in Section 224.3 of the Public Utilities Code, a community water system, as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, and a wastewater treatment provider, as defined in Section 116773.2 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) Any state regulation that seeks to require, or otherwise compel, the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles shall ensure that those vehicles can support a public agency utility's ability to maintain reliable water and electric service, respond to disasters in an emergency capacity, and provide mutual aid assistance statewide and nationwide, and shall do both of the following:

(1) Recognize the diversity of fleet size, terrain, and climate, and authorize public agency utilities to purchase replacements for traditional utility specialized vehicles that are at the end of life when needed to maintain reliable service and respond to major foreseeable events, including, but not limited to, severe weather, wildfires, natural disasters, and physical attacks.

(2) In coordination with public agency utilities, include a list of vehicle vendors and suppliers that meet zero-emission vehicle standards and the public agency utilities' technical and performance requirements.

SECTION 1. Section 165 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

~~165. An authorized emergency vehicle is:~~

~~(a) Any publicly owned and operated ambulance, lifeguard, or lifesaving equipment or any privately owned or operated ambulance licensed by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to operate in response to emergency calls.~~

~~(b) Any publicly owned vehicle operated by the following persons, agencies, or organizations:~~

~~(1) Any federal, state, or local agency, department, or district employing peace officers as that term is defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, for use by those officers in the performance of their duties.~~

1 ~~(2) Any forestry or fire department of any public agency or fire~~
2 ~~department organized as provided in the Health and Safety Code.~~

3 ~~(e) Any vehicle owned by the state, or any bridge and highway~~
4 ~~district, and equipped and used either for fighting fires, or towing~~
5 ~~or servicing other vehicles, caring for injured persons, or repairing~~
6 ~~damaged lighting or electrical infrastructure.~~

7 ~~(d) Any state-owned vehicle used in responding to emergency~~
8 ~~fire, rescue, or communications calls and operated either by the~~
9 ~~Office of Emergency Services or by any public agency or industrial~~
10 ~~fire department to which the Office of Emergency Services has~~
11 ~~assigned the vehicle.~~

12 ~~(e) (1) Any vehicle owned or operated by a federally recognized~~
13 ~~Indian tribe used in responding to emergency, fire, ambulance, or~~
14 ~~lifesaving calls. For the purposes of this section and the provisions~~
15 ~~of Sections 2501 and 2510, a vehicle used in responding to~~
16 ~~emergency, fire, ambulance, or lifesaving calls owned or operated~~
17 ~~by a federally recognized Indian tribe is considered an authorized~~
18 ~~emergency vehicle.~~

19 ~~(2) Any vehicle owned or operated by any department or agency~~
20 ~~of the United States government when the vehicle is used in~~
21 ~~responding to emergency fire, ambulance, or lifesaving calls or is~~
22 ~~actively engaged in law enforcement work.~~

23 ~~(f) Any vehicle for which an authorized emergency vehicle~~
24 ~~permit has been issued by the Commissioner of the California~~
25 ~~Highway Patrol.~~

26

27

28 **REVISIONS:**

29 **Heading—Lines 2 and 3.**

30

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2023

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 23, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1072

Introduced by Assembly Member Wicks

February 15, 2023

An act to add Sections 106.1, 375.3, 375.4, and 375.7 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1072, as amended, Wicks. Water conservation and efficiency: low-income residential customers.

Existing law sets forth general state policies regarding water resources.

This bill would declare the policy of the state that *all residents have access to water conservation and efficiency programs needs to be available to all residents. programs*. The bill would also set forth related findings including that reaching the state's environmental justice goals and commitments requires designing climate adaptation programs so that all households may participate.

Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Water Resources. Existing law also establishes in the California Environmental Protection Agency the State Water Resources Control Board to provide for the orderly and efficient administration of the water resources of the state.

This bill would require, on and after January 1, 2025, urban wholesale water suppliers and urban water suppliers, as defined, to offer technical assistance and financial incentives, as described, to low-income residential customers to install efficient water conservation devices and

climate resilient landscaping, as provided. The bill would require the department and the board to utilize, to the maximum extent allowable by law, existing funding programs to provide technical assistance and financial incentives for water conservation and efficiency to community water systems with fewer than 3,000 service connections serving disadvantaged communities, and to urban wholesale water suppliers and urban water suppliers that meet specified criteria. The bill would require the department and the board to prioritize assistance to community water systems with the greatest risks to water supply security. The bill would require the board, in cooperation with the department, prior to January 1, 2025, to hold at least one public workshop to solicit stakeholder input on technical assistance and financial incentive program design and implementation considerations. The bill would also require the board to adopt reporting requirements, as described, on or before July 1, 2026.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 106.1 is added to the Water Code, to
- 2 read:
- 3 106.1. It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the
- 4 state that *all residents have* access to water conservation and
- 5 efficiency ~~programs needs to be available to all residents.~~
- 6 *programs.*
- 7 SEC. 2. Section 375.3 is added to the Water Code, to read:
- 8 375.3. (a) The state has made significant gains in water
- 9 conservation and efficiency in the residential sector, but they have
- 10 not been realized by all households equally. Rebate programs for
- 11 transforming landscapes and for efficient indoor plumbing fixtures
- 12 and devices have primarily reached households with capital on
- 13 hand to cover the initial cost of the investments.
- 14 (b) Climate change impacts require an even greater emphasis
- 15 on water conservation and efficiency.
- 16 (c) Reaching the state’s environmental justice goals and
- 17 commitments requires designing climate adaptation programs so
- 18 that all households may participate.
- 19 SEC. 3. Section 375.4 is added to the Water Code, to read:
- 20 375.4. For the purposes of this chapter:

- 1 (a) “Area median income” has the same definition as in Section
2 50093 of the Health and Safety Code as the median income for a
3 geographic area of the state, as annually estimated by the United
4 States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant
5 to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.
- 6 (b) “Board” means the State Water Resources Control Board.
- 7 (c) “Climate resilient landscape” means a landscape that can
8 survive with limited irrigation while providing environmental and
9 social benefits, such as shade, habitat, food production,
10 biodiversity, and water quality. Examples include, but are not
11 limited to, personal and community gardens, shade trees, and low
12 water use plants that do not require application of synthetic
13 fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides.
- 14 (d) “Community water system” means a public water system
15 that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round
16 residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents of the
17 area served by the system, as defined in Section 116275 of the
18 Health and Safety Code.
- 19 (e) “Department” means the Department of Water Resources.
- 20 (f) “Disadvantaged community” means a community in which
21 the median household income is less than 80 percent of the
22 statewide annual median household income level, as defined in
23 Section 189.7.
- 24 (g) “Low-income household” means a household with an income
25 below 80 percent of the area median income.
- 26 (h) “Residential water conservation and efficiency program”
27 means a program administered by a community water system that
28 provides services or financial incentives for residential customers
29 to implement water conservation and efficiency improvements to
30 their property.
- 31 (i) “Urban water supplier” means a supplier, either publicly or
32 privately owned, providing water for municipal purposes either
33 directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying
34 more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, as defined in Section
35 10617.
- 36 (j) “Urban wholesale water supplier” means a water supplier,
37 either publicly or privately owned, that provides more than 3,000
38 acre-feet of water annually at wholesale for potable municipal
39 purposes, as defined in Section 10608.12.

1 (k) “Water conservation device” means any fixture, appliance,
2 system, or other technology designed for efficient indoor or outdoor
3 water use, and that meets or exceeds current state and federal codes
4 and standards. Examples include, but are not limited to, toilets,
5 faucets, showerheads, washing machines, dishwashers, leak
6 detectors, irrigation systems, and greywater systems.

7 SEC. 4. Section 375.7 is added to the Water Code, to read:

8 375.7. (a) On and after January 1, 2025, urban wholesale water
9 suppliers and urban water suppliers shall offer technical assistance
10 and financial incentives to low-income residential customers to
11 install efficient water conservation devices and climate resilient
12 landscaping. Technical assistance and financial incentives may be
13 provided as part of a residential water conservation and efficiency
14 program; however, suppliers shall allocate a minimum of 40
15 percent of program funds to low-income households and
16 disadvantaged communities within their service areas. If the urban
17 wholesale water supplier or urban water supplier can demonstrate
18 to the board that no more than 10 percent of households in their
19 service area would qualify, then the board may adjust the minimum
20 allocation to 10 percent of the total program budget.

21 (b) The technical assistance and financial incentives may be
22 paid for by ratepayer and nonratepayer revenue, or by recouping
23 the program cost by a surcharge on the program participant’s bill
24 that is no larger than actual bill savings generated by the program.

25 (c) Technical assistance and financial incentives permissible
26 under this section include, but are not limited to, all of the
27 following:

28 (1) Discounts realized by the household or the property owner
29 at time of purchase.

30 (2) Low- or no-cost installation of devices and landscapes.

31 (3) Technical assistance to establish and maintain climate
32 resilient landscapes.

33 (4) Partnerships with energy utilities and housing providers to
34 include installation of devices and landscapes in conjunction with
35 energy efficiency upgrades.

36 (5) Regional partnerships with any entity capable of providing
37 installation of devices or landscapes.

38 (d) Prior to adopting the technical assistance and financial
39 incentives, urban wholesale water suppliers and urban water
40 suppliers shall solicit input from disadvantaged community

1 members and incorporate their feedback into the design of
2 assistance and incentive programs.

3 (e) On and after January 1, 2025, an urban wholesale water
4 supplier and urban water supplier that applies for financial
5 assistance, other than emergency assistance, from the state shall
6 be eligible only after demonstrating that the applicant meets the
7 requirements of this section.

8 (f) (1) The department and the board shall, to the maximum
9 extent allowable by law, utilize existing funding programs to
10 provide technical assistance and financial incentives for water
11 conservation and efficiency to community water systems with
12 fewer than 3,000 service connections serving disadvantaged
13 communities, and to urban wholesale water suppliers and urban
14 water suppliers that meet the requirements of this section.

15 (2) Existing funding programs ~~shall~~ *may* include, but are not
16 limited to, all of the following:

17 (A) Grant funds *for water efficiency and conservation* authorized
18 by general obligation bonds.

19 (B) The revolving loan funds for drinking water and clean water
20 administered by the board.

21 ~~(C) The integrated regional water management program~~
22 ~~administered by the department.~~

23 ~~(D)~~

24 (C) General fund allocations for water efficiency and
25 conservation to either the department or the board.

26 ~~(E)~~

27 (D) Federal funds administered by the department or the board
28 for environmental justice, water supply, and water efficiency.

29 ~~(F) Fees collected pursuant to implementation of the Sustainable~~
30 ~~Groundwater Management Act (Part 2.74 (commencing with~~
31 ~~Section 10720) of Division 6).~~

32 (g) The department and the board shall prioritize assistance to
33 community water systems with the greatest risks to water supply
34 security.

35 (h) Prior to January 1, 2025, the board, in cooperation with the
36 department, shall hold at least one public workshop to solicit
37 stakeholder input on technical assistance and financial incentive
38 program design and implementation considerations.

- 1 (i) On or before July 1, 2026, the board shall adopt reporting
2 requirements for this section. When setting reporting requirements,
3 the board shall consider the following:
- 4 (1) Methods to identify and document disadvantaged
5 communities and low-income households receiving assistance.
- 6 (2) Whether to use the electronic annual report process for
7 community water systems pursuant to Section 116530 of the Health
8 and Safety Code.
- 9 (3) Whether to set separate compliance reporting requirements
10 for urban water suppliers pursuant to Sections 10609.15 and
11 10609.28.
- 12 (4) Whether to recommend to the Legislature that additional
13 reporting requirements be added to urban water management plans
14 pursuant to Section 10631.

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AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023	Budgeted: N/A
To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte Board of Directors	Budgeted Amount: N/A
From: Mike Markus	Cost Estimate: N/A
Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Dunkin	Funding Source: N/A
	Program/Line-Item No.: N/A
	General Counsel Approval: N/A
	Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A
	CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) federal advocate and staff will provide an update on advocacy efforts to exempt water entities from PFAS liability, which is the intent of Senator Cynthia Lummis’s (R- WY) draft legislation. In addition, a future visit to Washington D.C. will be discussed as well as PFAS cleanup funding.

Attachment(s):

- ENS Resources April Update
- Coalition PFAS Receivers Letter on CERCLA
- Letter to EPA RE PFAS – Porter and Coalition

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for the May 17 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

Efforts to exempt water entities from PFAS Liability

Senator Cynthia Lummis’s (R- WY) draft legislation would exempt water entities from PFAS liability, which has been a key priority for OCWD. ENS Resources will work to advance this draft legislation and will bring it to OCWD once the language is completed.

ENS Resources helped develop the attached “Coalition PFAS Receivers Letter on CERCLA.”

Please note, in a coalition letter to the United State Environmental Protection Agency, Congresswoman Porter called for swift PFAS regulations and limitations to PFAS discharges. (see attached letter)

Future Visit to Washington D.C.

ENS Resources is developing a list of key meetings to gain and reviewing the Congressional calendar to propose the best times for a future visit to Washington D.C. by OCWD board members and the general manager. Topics to be included would include liability exemption for water and wastewater agencies from CERCLA liability if PFAS is listed as a hazardous substance, PFAS cleanup funds and other topics to be determined.

PFAS Cleanup Funding

OCWD applied for Community Projects Funding Grants for PFAS cleanup funding of \$8 million for Fiscal Year 2024 from our entire federal delegation, with the exception of Congresswoman Porter who did not accept applications for community project funding.

Both Congresswoman Young Kim and Senator Padilla included OCWD in their list of projects for funding \$8 million for PFAS cleanup funds to the Appropriations Committee.

ACTIVITIES

February 28 Congressman Correa and his staff met with Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin in Washington D.C. Also, Staff to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Beth Hammon and Joe Brown, met with Mike Markus, Eric Sapirstein and Alicia Dunkin

March 1 Congresswoman Kim's staff, Shine Lee, and Congresswoman Steel's staff, Ken Clifford, met with Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin

February 28- President Green, Mike Markus and Alicia Dunkin participated in the ACWA Washington D.C. conference and MWDOC policy dinner

March 2



TO: Alicia Dunkin
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: April 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congress returned from an extended recess to continue its efforts to develop a fiscal year 2024 budget and most importantly an increase in the debt ceiling. In addition to the budget and spending debate, efforts to overturn the WOTUS rule that became effective in March were dispensed with as the House and Senate could not overturn the president's veto of the congressional resolution to nullify the rule. The following summarizes the status of issues of interest to OCWD.

- ***PFAS Rulemaking and Legislation Continue to Take Shape***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water continues to move forward with its aggressive agenda to finalize designation of PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under CERCLA. Following its proposed rule to designate PFOS and PFOA, the agency on April 12 issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to designate an additional seven members of the PFAS family, including GEN X. The agency provided for a swift thirty day public comment period. After the closing of the period (May 13), the agency is expected to review comments and quickly issue a final rule. This will effectively expand the universe of PFAS chemicals subject to CERCLA cleanups and liability impacts.

The agency action only heightens the need for legislative action to provide an exemption from CERCLA liability. The anticipated draft Senate legislation has not been released as the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works staff have been unable to reach a bipartisan agreement on the parameters of any bill. While we anticipate a draft to be released, it is unclear when this will happen. The committee staff understand the water sector's (and others) needs for a passive receiver exemption from CERCLA liability. Adding to the debate over the need for an exemption is USEPA's assurances that it will rely upon its discretionary authority. Validating OCWD's concerns about liability exposure under CERCLA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently challenged the agency's legal authority not to enforce against specific sectors, like water agencies. The Chamber argued in a letter (attached) to USEPA and the Department of Justice that any such policy would be subject to legal challenges.

Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Requests

The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are beginning the formal review of spending priorities including Community Projects requests. OCWD's request for continued federal assistance of its PFAS cleanup program was accepted by Representative Young Kim. The requested assistance is \$8,000,000 and is under consideration by the House Committee on Appropriations. Assuming the request is positively acted upon, as part of any final spending bill, the funding would be likely to become available in early 2024.

House Committee on Natural Resources Conducts California Water Hearing

The House Committee on Natural Resources held a field hearing into Representative David Valadao's (R-CA) WATER for CA Act (H.R. 215) where Central Valley water interests testified on the importance of legislating long term solutions to assure reliable water supplies. Noting the fact that the past winter's storms provided a respite from the urgency of the drought, the witnesses emphasize that water supplies will continue to be threatened. The hearing was largely attended by committee Republicans. Representative Jim Costa (D-CA) participated as a guest. The hearing illustrated that a consensus exists to move a bill forward. However, the parameters of any bill remain to be finalized due to voiced concerns over impacts on water rights and water supplies for refuge needs. Additionally, provisions that would statutorily find that the CVPIA's environmental restoration priorities have been achieved is expected to generate significant debate within the committee.

As of this writing, committee consideration of a bill could be as soon as the last week of April or first weeks of May.



April 24, 2023

The Honorable Tom Carper
 Chairman
 U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and
 Public Works
 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
 Ranking Member
 U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and
 Public Works
 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito:

The undersigned organizations represent local governments and private entities responsible for safeguarding public health and the environment, including drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and water recycling facilities, municipal solid waste landfills, and composting facilities. We write to urge that any legislation on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) considers include a specific provision to ensure that the organizations we represent are explicitly recognized as “passive receivers” of PFAS and afford these essential public services a narrow exemption from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Absent such relief, designation of certain PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances would shift the “polluter pays” principle of the law to that of a “community pays” model placing the burden of compliance and cleanup onto ratepayers and the public at-large.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated often, including during Assistant Administrator Rhadika Fox’s testimony to EPW, that the agency would use its “discretionary authority” in pursuing CERCLA enforcement actions against certain parties. However, this commitment offers little comfort to our sectors given the expansive rights of Potentially Responsible Parties under CERCLA to bring contribution litigation against other entities that are alleged to be additional sources of hazardous substances at a cleanup site.

EPA has stated that it has insufficient existing legal authority to provide relief to public service providers from the impact of CERCLA contribution litigation. Claims for contribution against passive receiver groups thus would generate significant litigation costs for lawful operations going back decades—costs that would lead to significant cost increases on essential public service providers and the communities and residents they serve.

It is important to highlight that our members deliver essential public services that do not involve the manufacture or use of PFAS. We are passive receivers of media containing PFAS that are ubiquitous in the

water supply, wastewater treatment process, stormwater, biosolids management, and solid waste streams. Each of our sectors is interdependent: landfills rely on wastewater treatment facilities for their leachate discharge while water and wastewater treatment facilities depend on landfills and compost facilities for biosolids management and disposal of spent water filtration systems. Although our members carry-out the delivery of public health services consistent with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and Solid Waste Disposal Act, among other federal and state mandates, CERCLA designation, absent Congressional action, would disrupt the interdependence of passive receivers by driving each sector to revisit the acceptance of influent streams that might contain PFAS concentrations and impacting our ability to recover resources that can contribute to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Our sectors acknowledge our role as part of the long-term solution to PFAS management, recognize the need to protect public health and the environment, and share the goal of holding accountable those entities that are primarily responsible for PFAS contamination. Nevertheless, any action designating certain PFAS compounds as hazardous substances must be accompanied by relief that allows communities to continue to rely on the affordability of the essential public services our sectors provide. Accordingly, we urge the Committee to provide statutory relief from CERCLA liability for owners and operators of passive receiver facilities.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
Association of Compost Producers
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Coalition of Recyclers of Residual Organics by Practitioners of Sustainability
Michigan Water Environment Association
Michigan Waste & Recycling Association
Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association
Midwest Biosolids Association
Municipal Environmental Group – Wastewater Division
Municipal Waste Management Association
National Association of County Officials
National Association of Water Companies
National League of Cities
National Municipal Stormwater Alliance
National Waste & Recycling Association
National Water Resources Association
New England Water Environment Association
North East Biosolids and Residuals Association
Northwest Biosolids Association
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Solid Waste Association of North America
Southeast Biosolids Association
The United States Conference of Mayors
U.S. Composting Council
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts
Washington Refuse & Recycling Association
WateReuse Association
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

We are writing today to express our concerns with the newly released plan for regulating wastewater pollution, including industrial discharges of the forever chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. We recognize that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Biden administration has made strides to curb this public health crisis and applaud the agency for proposing to designate the two most commonly detected forever chemicals, PFOA and PFOS, as hazardous substances under the Superfund law, expanding monitoring for PFAS in drinking water, developing new analytical methods, and providing funding for infrastructure upgrades. However, as representatives of communities impacted by PFAS pollution, we have serious concerns with the lack of urgency to rapidly address this crisis with respect to industrial dischargers in the EPA's updated multi-year strategic plan.

As you know, there are currently no federal limits on how much PFAS can be dumped into surface waters by industrial dischargers under the Clean Water Act. This puts the health and safety of communities across the nation at risk and results in costly cleanup and treatment activities to remove PFAS contamination after it has occurred. PFAS contamination has been detected at more than 2,800 sites in 50 states, according to a map published by the Environmental Working Group, or EWG. These include military sites that use firefighting foam containing PFAS and industrial sites where PFAS chemicals were manufactured or used in production. EWG estimates that as many as 30,000 industrial dischargers could be releasing PFAS into the environment.

Thousands of communities in states across the country have confirmed the presence of PFAS in their drinking water or groundwater supplies, which leads to increased risk of cancer and other serious health problems. Very low doses of PFAS in drinking water have been linked to suppression of the immune system, including reduced vaccine efficacy, increased cholesterol, reproductive and developmental problems and other health harms. PFAS pollution also has adverse impacts on the food supply and agricultural producers. Nevertheless, the EPA has for decades failed to set legal standards for industries that discharge their PFAS waste into the nation's water bodies and air.

The plan, the Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15, unfortunately falls short of the agency's commitment in its 2021 PFAS Strategic Roadmap to "get upstream" of the forever chemicals problem. The newly released plan will take years to complete, delaying much-needed restrictions on PFAS discharges into waterways. Polluters have been given a free pass for far too long, and our constituents deserve more aggressive action.

The U.S. House of Representatives has twice passed bipartisan legislation that would require the EPA to set PFAS standards for nine priority categories with known or suspected releases of PFAS, within four years. Identical legislation, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act, was introduced in the Senate last Congress. These priority industry categories include: organic chemicals, plastics and synthetic fibers (OCPSF); landfills; textile mills; electroplating; metal finishing; leather tanning and finishing; paint formulating; electrical and electronic components; and plastics molding and forming.

We are very concerned by the delays in the updated plan for the OCPSF and metal finishing categories, and by the lack of deadlines set by the agency for the other priority industry categories. We're also concerned that the EPA has decided not to develop effluent limitation guidelines for four categories: electrical and electronic components; leather tanning and finishing, paint formulating; and plastics molding and forming. The EPA should not push back previously set deadlines for industries with known industrial discharges of PFAS or punt on developing regulations for other industries likely to be discharging PFAS. Communities living downstream and downwind of industrial PFAS polluters rightfully expect swift action from the EPA after decades of exposure.

We look forward to working with you on addressing this urgent public health issue. Communities have waited decades for action; now is the time to protect them. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



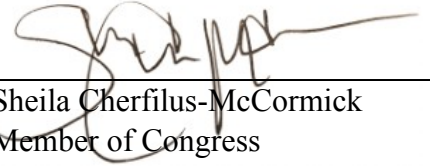
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



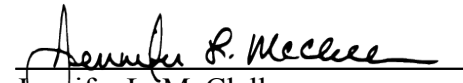
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



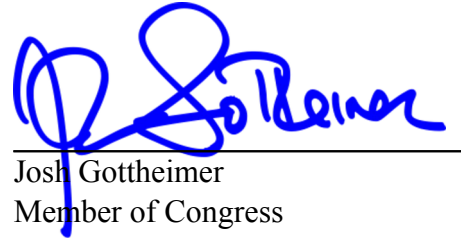
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



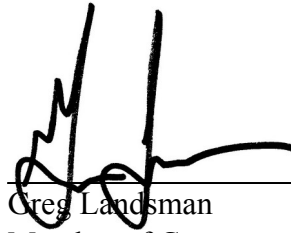
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



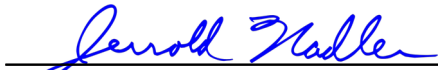
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



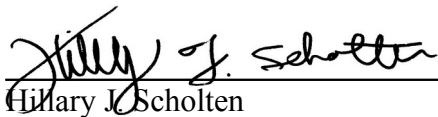
Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: Mike Markus

Staff Contacts: G. Ayala/K. Erquiaga

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount:

Cost Estimate:

Funding Source: Multiple

Program/Line Item No.:

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: GWRS FINAL COMPLETION DEDICATION CEREMONY UPDATE

SUMMARY

The GWRS Final Completion Dedication Ceremony (Dedication) was held Friday, April 14, 2023. Staff will provide a verbal recap of the event.

ATTACHMENT

- GWRS Final Completion Dedication Media Clips

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Hosted jointly with OC San, a dedication event took place April 14, 2023, to commemorate the GWRS Final Completion. The event showcased the accomplishments of this project and its enormous benefits to Orange County's water supply.

Approximately 350 people attended the dedication including more than 150 elected officials, water industry professionals and other stakeholders. More than 90 employees from OCWD and OC San volunteered to staff the event. In addition, 10 representatives from Carollo volunteered.

The program included a video presentation by Senator Alex Padilla and brief speeches by Congressmembers Lou Correa, Young Kim, and Katie Porter, California Senator Dave Min, Assemblymembers Cottie Petrie-Norris, Tri Ta, and Diane Dixon and State Water Resources Control Board Director, Sean Maguire. Other speakers included OCWD Directors Cathy Green, Steve Sheldon and Bruce Whitaker and OC San Directors Chad Wanke and Glenn Grandis.

Media coverage of the dedication was extensive. More than 29 stories have been published or broadcast to date. Media outlets attending the event included:
Orange County Register

Los Angeles Times/Daily Pilot
ABC News
Spectrum News
Orange Coast Magazine

The cost of this event was offset by sponsorships of \$45,000 from the following nine companies:

- Black & Veatch
- Brown & Caldwell
- Butier
- Carollo
- CDM Smith
- Converse
- Dupont
- Schimmick
- SPI Engineering

**GWRS Final Completion Dedication
Media Clips
April 26, 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
1	4/24/2023	Fullerton Observer	United States	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability for Orange County	https://fullertonobserver.com/2023/04/24/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county/	12,984
2	4/22/2023	FreshSociety	United States	The West's weather whiplash should not influence long-term water management	https://freshsociety.info/2023/04/22/the-wests-weather-whiplash-should-not-influence-long-term-water-management/	1,590
3	4/21/2023	KCRW-FM (Radio)	United States	Radio clip from KCRW-FM (Radio) - Apr 21, 2023	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001594055810	257,200
4	4/20/2023	ACWA	United States	Groundwater Replenishment System Receives Design Grand Prize	https://www.acwa.com/news/groundwater-replenishment-system-receives-design-grand-prize/	8,802
5	4/20/2023	The Orange County Register	United States	fountain valley; World's biggest water recycling facility grows	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50568471967	1,862,234
6	4/20/2023	ACWA	United States	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability	https://www.acwa.com/news/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county/	8,802
7	4/19/2023	Water Well Journal	United States	My McEllhiney Lecture Experience	https://waterwelljournal.com/my-mcellhiney-lecture-experience/	3,912
8	4/19/2023	Daily Pilot	United States	Oh, Baby! Assistance League of Laguna Beach boosts infants with developmental disabilities	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50565494875	855

**GWRS Final Completion Dedication
Media Clips
April 26, 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
9	4/19/2023	American City & County	United States	As climate change drives drought throughout the West, there's no easy solution	https://www.americancityandcounty.com/2023/04/18/with-climate-change-driving-drought-conditions-in-the-west-theres-no-easy-solution/	12,084
10	4/19/2023	Water Online	United States	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability For Orange County	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county-0001	51,445
11	4/18/2023	KFI AM	United States	Radio clip from KFI AM - Apr 18, 2023	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001592253301	-
12	4/18/2023	americancityandcounty.com	United States	As climate change drives drought throughout the West, there's no easy solution	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50553993360	12,084
13	4/18/2023	Water Online	United States	Water reuse Association Congratulates Orange County On Completing The World's Largest Water Recycling Facility	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/watereuse-association-congratulates-orange-county-largest-water-recycling-facility-0001	51,445
14	4/17/2023	Water Finance & Management	United States	Final expansion complete on world's largest water reuse facility	https://waterfm.com/final-expansion-complete-on-worlds-largest-water-reuse-facility/	8,462
15	4/17/2023	Water & Wastes Digest	United States	Orange County completes world's largest water recycling facility	https://www.wwdmag.com/water-reuse-recycling/press-release/33003527/orange-county-completes-worlds-largest-water-recycling-facility	41,706

**GWRS Final Completion Dedication
Media Clips
April 26, 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
16	4/15/2023	The Orange County Register	United States	Water; OC's treatment plant is largest in the world	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50525146217	1,862,234
17	4/15/2023	webtoday.us	United States	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC "Orange County Register	https://webtoday.us/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	1,068
18	4/15/2023	KABC-LA (ABC)	United States	Eyewitness News 5AM	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001589684075	85,238
19	4/15/2023	Dispatchist	United States	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion dispatchist.com	https://dispatchist.com/news/a-watershed-moment-orange-county-leaders-gush-over-system-completion/	3,581
20	4/15/2023	NewsDeeply.com	United States	Orange County completes world's largest wastewater recycling and purification system	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2023/pr20230414-orange-county-replenishment.pdf	217,927
21	4/15/2023	Los Angeles Times	United States	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion	https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2023-04-14/a-watershed-moment-orange-county-leaders-gush-over-system-completion	28,585,868
22	4/15/2023	Elite News	United Kingdom	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC "Orange County Register	https://elitenews.uk/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	2,416
23	4/15/2023	Bulletin Reporter	India	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC "Orange County Register	https://bulletinreporter.com/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	4,281

**GWRS Final Completion Dedication
Media Clips
April 26, 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Country	Title	Link	Total Readership
24	4/15/2023	The Orange County Register	United States	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC	https://www.ocregister.com/2023/04/14/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc/	1,862,234
25	4/14/2023	WaterReuse Association	United States	WaterReuse Association Congratulates Orange County on Completing the World's Largest Water Recycling Facility	https://watereuse.org/orange-county-completes-largest-water-recycling-facility/	7,779
26	4/14/2023	Orange Coast Magazine	United States	Officials Dedicate Final Expansion of O.C.'s Groundwater Replenishment System	https://www.orangecoast.com/article/officials-dedicate-final-expansion-of-ocs-groundwater-replenishment-system/	58,626
27	4/14/2023	KABC-LA (ABC)	United States	Eyewitness News 4PM	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001589314113	184,140
28	4/14/2023	Daily Pilot	United States	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50523113246	855
					Total Readership	35,209,852

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte
Board of Directors

From: Mike Markus

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT (April 2023)

SUMMARY

Outreach for the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and its programs and projects continue in an in-person and virtual format.

Attachment(s):

- April 2023 Media Clips Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Tours

Eighty-six people attended tours in April.

April tours:

- April 7 – Public tour
- April 18 – Los Alamitos Councilmembers Murphy and Hubard
- April 21 – Korean Delegation
- April 25 – UC Irvine
- April 25 – University of South Carolina
- April 26 – Cypress College
- April 28 – Chapman University

Upcoming tours:

- May 3 – Lukes Network
- May 5 – Public tour
- May 9 – Edison High School
- May 11 – Industrial Environmental Coalition of Orange County

- May 12 – City of San Diego Pure Water
- May 31 – Director Valerie Amezcua

A 30-minute [on-demand technical virtual tour](#) is available on the District’s social media channels. The tour, in all forms, has been viewed more than 7,600 times. A 10-minute [on-demand general virtual tour](#) has been viewed more than 3,700 times.

Speakers Bureau/Media

As part of OCWD’s standard to forge and maintain long-term, positive, and proactive relationships with members of the community and be transparent about its operations and programs, OCWD board members and staff participate, regularly, at conferences and events and speak before civic groups.

April Speakers Bureau:

- April 13 – Ryan Bouley spoke about the Santiago Basin Saddle Repair Project at the ACSE EWRI Orange County event.
- April 14 – Directors Cathy Green, Steve Sheldon and Bruce Whitaker were among the speakers at the GWRS Final Completion Dedication.
- April 14 – Mike Markus was a panelist at the Water Infrastructure Networking Summit.
- April 18 – Adam Hutchinson spoke on the panel “Managing Stormwater on Major Infrastructure projects” at InfraDay 2023.
- April 24 – Adam Hutchinson spoke on reversing groundwater basin salinity at the National Groundwater Association’s event Managed Aquifer Recharge: Unleashing Resiliency, Protecting Groundwater Quality.
- April 27 – Mehul Patel participated in a nationwide virtual field trip hosted by NOVA titled “Turning Wastewater Into Drinking Water”.

Upcoming Speakers Bureau:

- May 2 - CAPIO
- June 6-8 – GRA/ACWA SGMA Implementation
- June 10 – OC Green Expo
- June 13 – AWWA ACE

Media Clips

In April, there were 41 global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 58 million. The media clip report for April (as of April 25) is attached.

Social Media

The District engages 15,918 followers on its social media channels. Below are statistics for OCWD's social media for April (as of April 25).

OCWD's Twitter page @OCWDWaterNews

- Total followers: 5,520
- Posts: 30
- Profile visits: 1,096
- Impressions: 5,100

OCWD's Facebook @OCWaterDistrict

- Total page likes: 1,676
- Total page followers: 2,050
- Posts: 20
- Engagement: 900
- Reach: 4,800

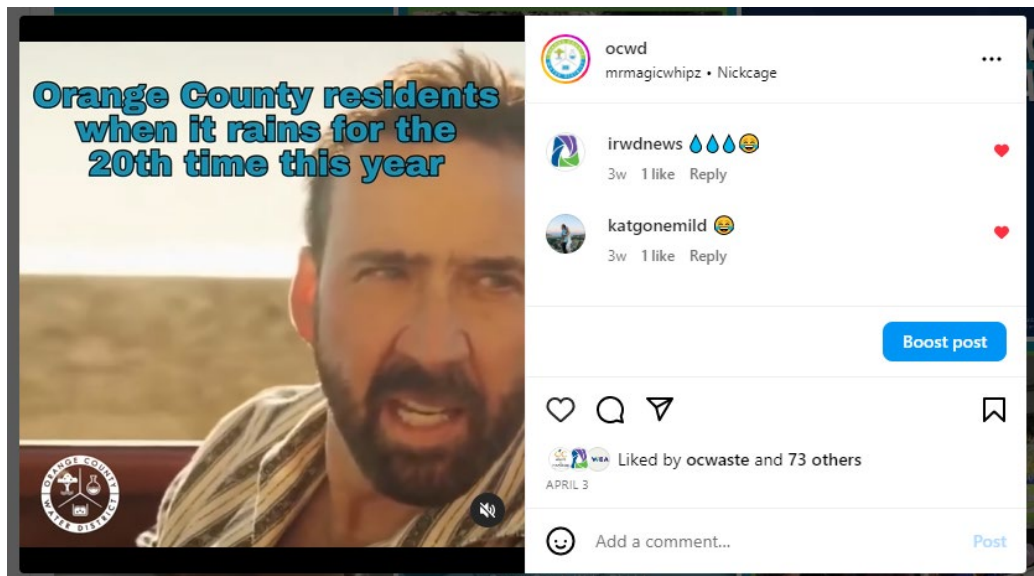
OCWD's LinkedIn (Orange County Water District)

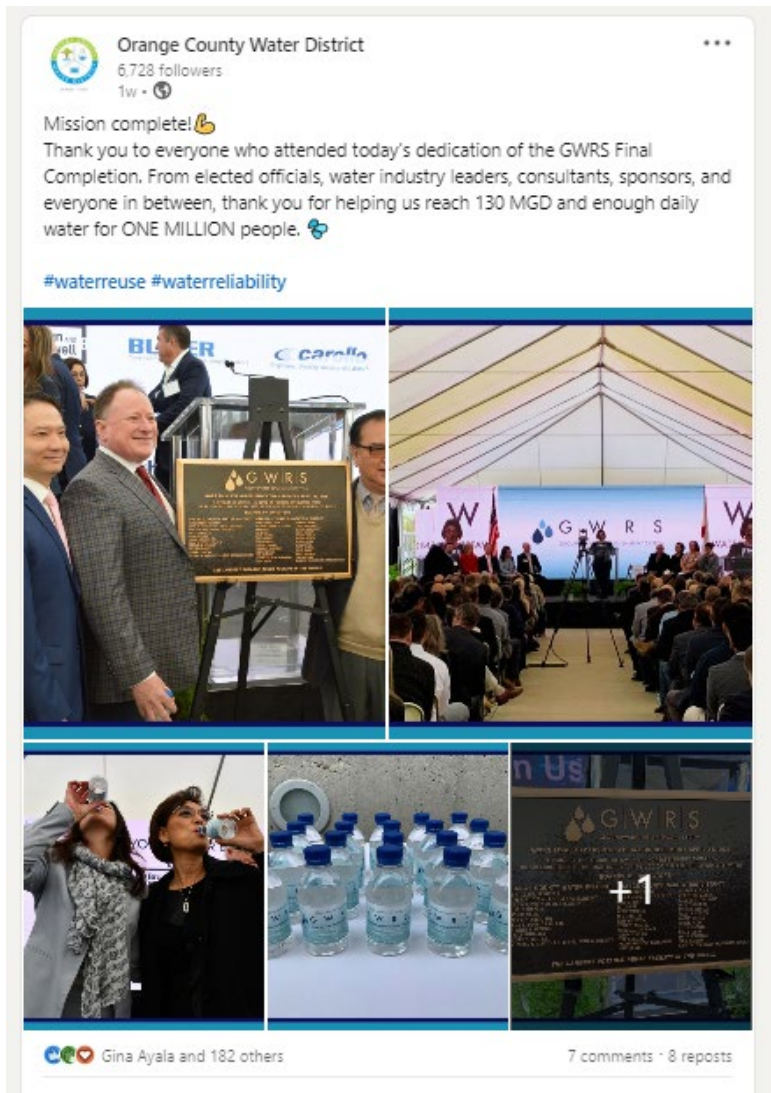
- Total followers: 6,728
- Posts: 17
- Engagement: 779
- Impressions: 23,767

OCWD's Instagram @ocwd

- Total followers: 1,620
- Posts: 14
- Stories 40
- Engagement: 157
- Reach: 1,550

A sampling of top performing social media posts:





Website Analytics

Below are April analytics for OCWD's website (as of April 25). All numbers reflect external visitors, not internal OCWD traffic.

- Visitors: 7,749
- Page views: 21,893
- Top five pages:
 - Home: 4,633
 - GWRS: 1,938
 - Meeting agenda minutes: 784
 - About: 593
 - GWRS The Process: 577

Electronic Publications and Videos

- Staff wrote and distributed the April issue of Hydrospectives, OCWD's monthly e-newsletter.
- Staff wrote and distributed the PFAS quarterly update.
- Staff wrote and distributed three press releases:
 - [Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability for Orange County](#)
 - [Groundwater Replenishment System Receives Design Grand Prize](#)
 - [Nation's Largest PFAS Treatment Plant Garners Statewide Recognition](#)

Events

OCWD co-hosted the GWRS Final Completion Dedication on April 14, 2023. Approximately 350 people attended, including federal and state legislators, current and past board members, water industry leaders, regulators, consultants, and members of the media.

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Title	Country	Link	Total Readership
1	4/24/2023	twri.tamu.edu	Meet a scientist: Garrett McKay	United States	https://twri.tamu.edu/news/2023/april/meet-a-scientist-garrett-mckay/	4,307
2	4/24/2023	Fullerton Observer	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability for Orange County	United States	https://fullertonobserver.com/2023/04/24/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county/	12,984
3	4/22/2023	FreshSociety	The West's weather whiplash should not influence long-term water management	United States	https://freshsociety.info/2023/04/22/the-west-s-weather-whiplash-should-not-influence-long-term-water-management/	1,590
4	4/21/2023	The Business Journals	How this Morrisville startup wants to help solve the global water crisis	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50580667518	7,433,757
5	4/20/2023	ACWA	Groundwater Replenishment System Receives Design Grand Prize	United States	https://www.acwa.com/news/groundwater-replenishment-system-receives-design-grand-prize/	8,802
6	4/20/2023	OC Catholic	SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE CULTIVATE CARE FOR CREATION THROUGH WATER	United States	https://www.occatholic.com/sisters-of-st-joseph-of-orange-cultivate-care-for-creation-through-water/	16,785
7	4/20/2023	The Orange County Register	fountain valley; World 's biggest water recycling facility grows	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50568471967	1,862,234
8	4/20/2023	Water Industry (KR)	글로벌물산업정보센터		http://waterindustry.co.kr/overseas/overseas01.php?ptype=view&idx=125363	1,622
9	4/20/2023	ACWA	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability	United States	https://www.acwa.com/news/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county/	8,802
10	4/19/2023	Water Well Journal	My McElhiney Lecture Experience	United States	https://waterwelljournal.com/my-mcellhiney-lecture-experience/	3,912
11	4/19/2023	워터저널 - 전체기사	[미국] 오렌지 카운티, 지하수 보충 시스템 완공으로 물공급 신뢰성 제고		http://www.waterjournal.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=66949	14,189

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Title	Country	Link	Total Readership
12	4/19/2023	Water Online	Groundwater Replenishment System Completion Increases Water Supply Reliability For Orange County	United States	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/groundwater-replenishment-system-completion-increases-water-supply-reliability-for-orange-county-0001	51,445
13	4/18/2023	KFI AM	Radio clip from KFI AM - Apr 18, 2023 - Sandy Scott-Roberts	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001592253301	-
14	4/18/2023	Water Online	Wateruse Association Congratulates Orange County On Completing The World's Largest Water Recycling Facility	United States	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/wateruse-association-congratulates-orange-county-largest-water-recycling-facility-0001	51,445
15	4/17/2023	www.watereducation.org	Expansion of world's biggest water reuse system in Orange County now complete	United States	https://www.watereducation.org/aquafornia-news/expansion-worlds-biggest-water-reuse-system-orange-county-now-complete	38,236
16	4/17/2023	Water Finance & Management	Final expansion complete on world's largest water reuse facility	United States	https://waterfm.com/final-expansion-complete-on-worlds-largest-water-reuse-facility/	8,462
17	4/17/2023	Water & Wastes Digest	Orange County completes world's largest water recycling facility	United States	https://www.wwdmag.com/water-reuse-recycling/press-release/33003527/orange-county-completes-worlds-largest-water-recycling-facility	41,706
18	4/16/2023	mydroll.com	Expansion of world's biggest water reuse system in Orange County now complete	United States	https://mydroll.com/expansion-of-worlds-biggest-water-reuse-system-in-orange-county-now-complete/	5,641
19	4/16/2023	ABC7 Eyewitness News	Expansion of world's biggest water reuse system in Orange County now complete	United States	https://abc7.com/orange-county-water-districts-groundwater-replenishment-system-mehul-patel-katie-porter/13128506/	6,520,931

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Title	Country	Link	Total Readership
20	4/15/2023	The Orange County Register	Water; OC 's treatment plant is largest in the world	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50525146217	1,862,234
21	4/15/2023	Knowledia News	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC	France	https://news.knowledia.com/us/en/articles/the-world-s-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-e2afc9ad34a50fd8afc4bf9aa876889c80f6a690	130,302
22	4/15/2023	webtoday.us	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC – Orange County Register	United States	https://webtoday.us/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	1,068
23	4/15/2023	KABC-LA (ABC)	Eyewitness News 5AM - GWRS final completion	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001589684075	85,238
24	4/15/2023	Dispatchist	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion dispatchist.com	United States	https://dispatchist.com/news/a-watershed-moment-orange-county-leaders-gush-over-system-completion/	3,581
25	4/15/2023	Los Angeles Times	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion	United States	https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2023-04-14/a-watershed-moment-orange-county-leaders-gush-over-system-completion	28,585,868
26	4/15/2023	Elite News	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC – Orange County Register	United Kingdom	https://elitenews.uk/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	2,416
27	4/15/2023	Bulletin Reporter	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC – Orange County Register	India	https://bulletinreporter.com/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc-orange-county-register/	4,281
28	4/15/2023	The Orange County Register	The world's biggest water recycling facility gets bigger in OC	United States	https://www.ocregister.com/2023/04/14/the-worlds-biggest-water-recycling-facility-gets-bigger-in-oc/	1,862,234

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Title	Country	Link	Total Readership
29	4/14/2023	WateReuse Association	WateReuse Association Congratulates Orange County on Completing the World's Largest Water Recycling Facility	United States	https://watereuse.org/orange-county-completes-largest-water-recycling-facility/	7,779
30	4/14/2023	Orange Coast Magazine	Officials Dedicate Final Expansion of O.C.'s Groundwater Replenishment System	United States	https://www.orangecoast.com/article/officials-dedicate-final-expansion-of-ocs-groundwater-replenishment-system/	58,626
31	4/14/2023	Spectrum News 1 (San Fernando Valley)	Spectrum News SF Valley	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/150001589458227	2,062
32	4/14/2023	Daily Pilot	A watershed moment: Orange County leaders gush over system completion	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50523113246	855
33	4/13/2023	The Orange County Register	orange county; Officials charged up about recharge basins	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50507864971	1,862,234
34	4/10/2023	Fullerton Observer	WORLD'S LARGEST WATER RECYCLING FACILITY IN ORANGE COUNTY GETS EVEN BIGGER	United States	https://fullertonobserver.com/2023/04/10/worlds-largest-water-recycling-facility-in-orange-county-gets-even-bigger/	14,275
35	4/10/2023	International Desalination Association	World's largest water recycling facility in Orange County gets even bigger	United States	https://idadesal.org/worlds-largest-water-recycling-facility-in-orange-county-gets-even-bigger/	8,213
36	4/9/2023	The Orange County Register	orange county; recharge basins get replenished	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50471840623	1,862,234
37	4/8/2023	webtoday.us	What's with that lands o' lakes between Anaheim and Orange? – Orange County Register	United States	https://webtoday.us/whats-with-that-lands-o-lakes-between-anaheim-and-orange-county-register/	1,068
38	4/7/2023	The Orange County Register	What's with that lands o' lakes between Anaheim and Orange?	United States	https://www.ocregister.com/2023/04/07/whats-with-that-lands-o-lakes-between-anaheim-and-orange/	1,726,646

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
APRIL 2023**

	Date	Media Outlet	Title	Country	Link	Total Readership
39	4/6/2023	KPBS	NOVA: Weathering The Future	United States	https://www.kpbs.org/news/2023/04/06/no-va-weathering-the-future	379,688
40	4/6/2023	The Orange County Register	Education; Youths soak up knowledge at water festival	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50446695738	1,726,646
41	4/1/2023	The Orange County Register	What's with that lands o' lakes between Anaheim and Orange?	United States	https://app2.cision.com/#/articles/50463919818	1,726,646
					Total Readership	58,001,044